

The bird must nest very frequently as it is so common and I have often seen it making holes in trees as if to nest and on one occasion, knew of one which seemed to roost regularly in a hole it had made in a dead bough, in the Gardens, where it could be seen every evening sitting in the mouth of the hole, but though it was the breeding season. I found neither eggs nor young birds in the nest.

H. N. Ridley.

Nesting of *Draco Fimbriatus*.

While walking along a jungle track in the forests at Rantan Panjang in Selangor, in August, I came across a nest of this large flying lizard. Mr. Burn-Murdoch who was walking in front called my attention to the eggs, and I found I had stepped on the female lizard which was sitting by the nest and was so much, the color of the dead leaves that I did not see it. The eggs four in number were laid in a depression apparently scooped out by the lizard in the sandy soil. They were oblong with rounded ends 15 mm. long and 8 or 9 mm. thick, quite white.

H. N. Ridley.

A Wasp attacking a Leaf-mining Caterpillar.

In December last I observed a small species of wasp, of the class that the Malays call Peningat, running about on a young mangosteen leaf which was attacked by a leaf-mining caterpillar. The upper epidermis of the leaf had been raised by the caterpillar on both sides of the midrib. The wasp about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, was tearing the loosened epidermis and eventually crept underneath in pursuit of the grub, which was at the further end of its burrow. It was unable apparently to get across the midrib, and after searching about for sometime came out and as it seemed accidentally in running about on the upper surface of the leaf came across the larva. It immediately tore away the loose epidermis above it and seizing its prey flew off with it. The wasp is

a common species which makes small nests on the under-side of leaves. It has dark red thoraces and a black abdomen with a single yellow ring. That many of the smaller wasps prey on caterpillars is well known. The peculiarity in this case was that it attacked a leaf-miner and absolutely followed up its burrow under the epidermis.

H. N. Ridley.

On the Fertilization of *Grammatophyllum*.

On account of the fertilization of *Grammatophyllum speciosum* was published by myself in the Journal of the Linnean Society vol. xx p. 336, where it was shown that the black and red hornet *Vespa ciacta* was the usual agent in the transference of pollen from one flower to another. The orchid flowers in August and September and I note that this year in the Botanic Gardens Singapore none of these insects are about, but the wild bee *Apis dorsalis* is at work and is an equally good fertilizer. But the insects which are most abundant on and about the flowers are small hymenoptera too small to be able to touch the pollenmasses, and ants, and also the large carpenter bees. *Xylocopa aestuans* and *X. latipes*. These visit the flowers more abundantly than the Apis, going round to each newly opened flower and plunging into it to suck the honey from the base of the lip. These insects however do not remove the pollen, although there seems at first sight no reason for their not doing so. The reason for this is that the lip of the flower is moveable on its base, and though these carpenter bees, much thicker than the Vespa, and Apis would fill up the space between the lip and column were the lip immobile and so touch with their thoraces the pollen masses, their weight on the lip bends it down so that they do not quite touch it, and thus they back out of the flower without removing the pollen. In this case the mobility of the lip is really injurious to the flower, as it allows the carpenter bees to remove the honey without fertilizing the flower, and by so doing preventing an Apis or Vespa who might come later from visiting the honey-less flower. In the wild haunts of *Grammatophyllum* Xylocopas are as plentiful as Apis or Vespa and